



Studying the Rule of the OFS



Chapter 2 The Form of Life

4. The Rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ after the example of Saint Francis of Assisi. He made Christ the inspiration and centre of his life with God and all people. *6 Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the Way to him, the Truth to which the Holy Spirit leads us. He is himself the Life which he came to give abundantly. *7 Furthermore, Secular Franciscans commit themselves to a careful reading of the gospel moving from gospel to life and from life to gospel. *8

Footnotes:

*6 1 C 18 1 FA:ED (p 196), 115 (p 283)

*7 John 3.16; 14.6

*8 Apostolicam Actuositatem 30.8

Cf. General Constitutions:

Art 8.1-2; 9.2

ENDNOTES:



‘to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ after the example of St Francis of Assisi’

Q. What does this mean in the 21st century?

Consider the following texts from the Fourth Gospel as they relate to the living of a gospel-centred life:

Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying it to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him...’

Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...

I am come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.